

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04174 031021Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /104 W  
-----006242 031211Z /53

R 030819Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 4174

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, IR, UK  
SUBJ: MSR. THATCHER PAYS A CALL

SUMMARY: MRS. THATCHER HAD A USEFUL FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO  
IRAN DURING WHICH SHE COMMENTED ON SUBJECTS AS VARIED AS THE  
MIDDLE EAST, NEUTRON BOMBS AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSERVATIVE LEADER MARGARET THATCHER ARRIVED LATE APRIL 28,  
HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND SPOKE TO  
OVER 400 BUSINESSMEN AT A LUNCH ARRANGED BY THE IRANO-BRITISH  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. SAYING SHE HOPED "TO LEAD A GREAT COUNTRY  
SOON" SHE EMPHASIZED HER INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN  
GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY HER CONCERN ABOUT THE HORN OF AFRICA,  
WHERE "WE ARE UP AGAINST POWERS WHICH ACCEPT NO LIMITS TO THEIR  
AIM TO DOMINATE OTHER PEOPLES, EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY PROXY OR  
BY SUBVERSION." SHE REFERRED TO CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN  
AFRICA AS "DANGEROUS AND ESPECIALLY DISTURBING TO SAUDI ARABIA,  
OMAN AND ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE PERSIAN GULF." SHE  
DESCRIBED IRAN AS THE STRONGEST POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND CHARACTERIZED THE SHAH AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST  
FAR-SIGHTED STATESMEN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04174 031021Z

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON DOMESTIC BRITISH POLITICS,  
MRS. THATCHER SAID THAT SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE A CONSERVATIVE  
GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE TRADE UNIONS.  
SHE ADDED THAT PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET THE EXCELLENT  
RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN HER PARTY AND THE UNIONS  
DURING THE YEARS 1951-64.

3. DURING HER FOUR DAY VISIT MRS. THATCHER MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR, COURT MINISTER HOVEYDA, NIOC CHAIRMAN ANSARY AND WAS GIVEN LUNCH BY PRINCESS ASHRAF. SHE SPENT ONE DAY VISITING CULTURAL SITES IN ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE, MRS. THATCHER EMERGED AS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB SINCE "THE RUSSIANS ALREADY POSSESS MULTIHEADED WEAPONS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS." SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A USEFUL BARGAINING CHIP IN THE ON-GOING SALT NEGOTIATIONS. MRS. THATCHER ADDED THAT IF ELECTED SHE WOULD UNDERTAKE A "DISPASSIONATE ASSESSMENT" OF SOVIET AIMS WHICH SHE CHARACTERIZED AS "ALWAYS THE SAME. JUST THE MTHODS AND APPROACH CHANGE."

4. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, MRS. THATCHER CONTENTED THAT SHE "NEVER FOUND A NEED FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION." (THIS IS A BELIEF WHICH MIGHT NOT BE SHARED BY HALF OF HER POTENTIAL ELECTORATE BACK HOME.)

5. COMMENT: BRITISH EMBOFF TOLD US VISIT WAS PRIMARILY A FAMILIARIZATION TOUR FOR MRS. THATCHER WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED ARAB COUNTRIES BUT NEVER IRAN. THE BRITISH BELIEVE VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF HER RECEPTION BY NUMEROUS HIGH-LEVEL GOI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM SHE HAD A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 04174 031021Z

SULLIVAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISCRIMINATION, WOMEN, TRAVEL REPORTS, VISITS, PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TEHRAN04174  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780188-0606  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780595/aaaaddod.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 58f998a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2798990  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MSR. THATCHER PAYS A CALL SUMMARY: MRS. THATCHER HAD A USEFUL FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO IRAN DURING WHICH SHE COMMENTED ON SUBJECTS AS VAR  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MNUC, SHUM, IR, UK, XF, (THATCHER, MARGARET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/58f998a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014